

THE SYAMANTAKA GEM

To the women of Dwarka, Krishna is the most coveted jewel, the husband they yearn for. For most of the men, the Syamantaka, the sun-god's shining gem, is the most sought-after prize. This is hardly surprising – it is known to regularly bestow a hoard of solid gold on their Prince Satrajit. When the gem goes missing, suspicion falls on Krishna. He must prove his innocence, but danger and upheaval threaten at every turn.

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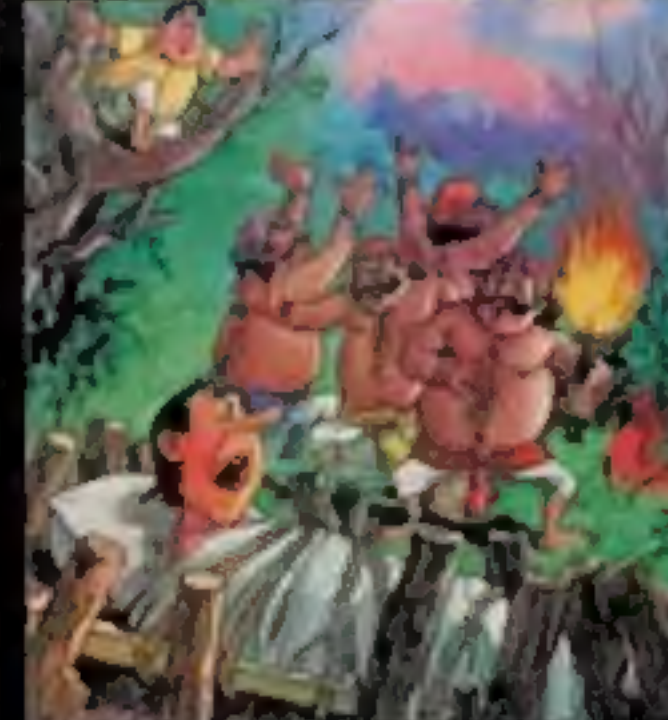
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THE SYAMANTAKA GEM

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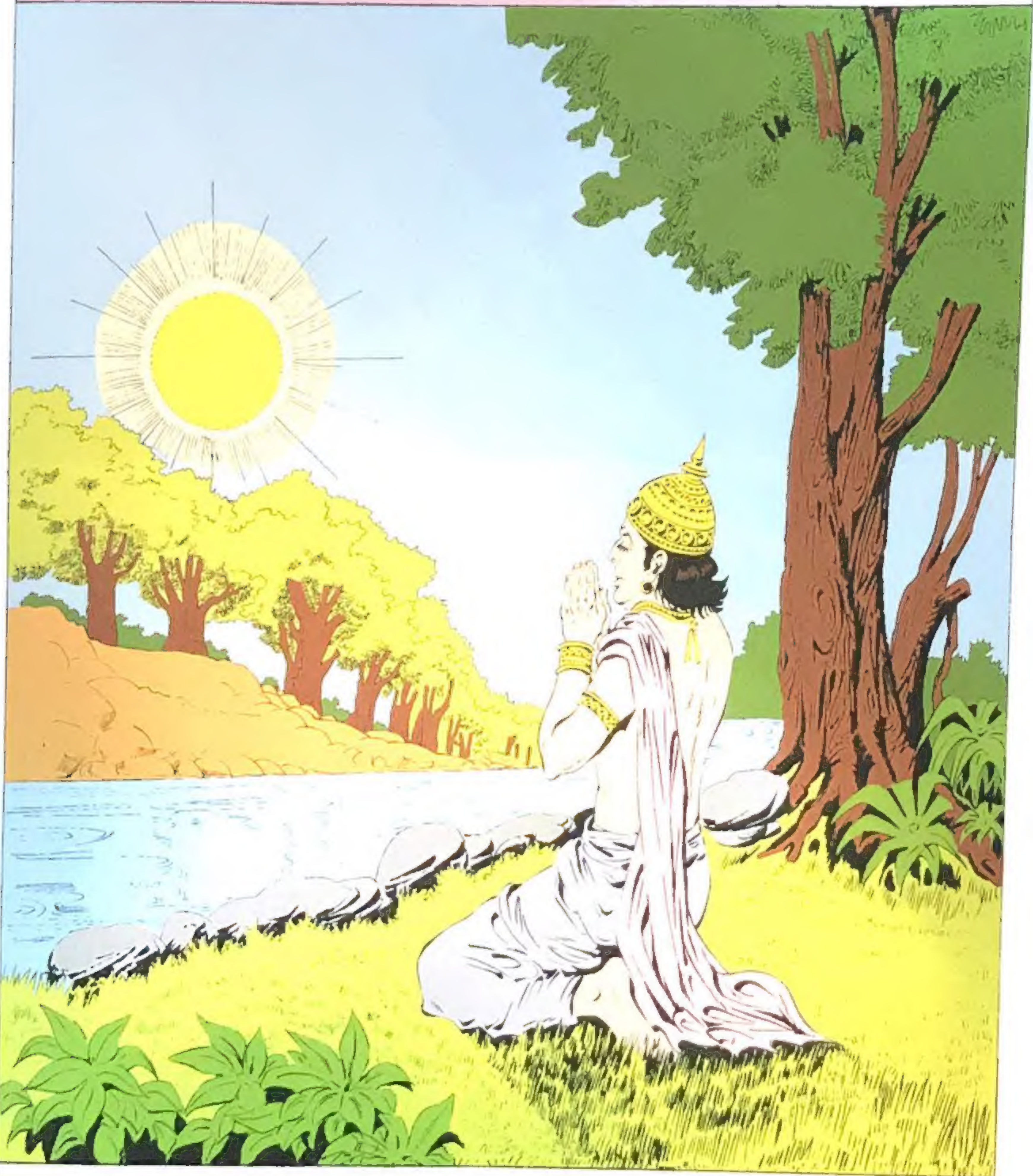
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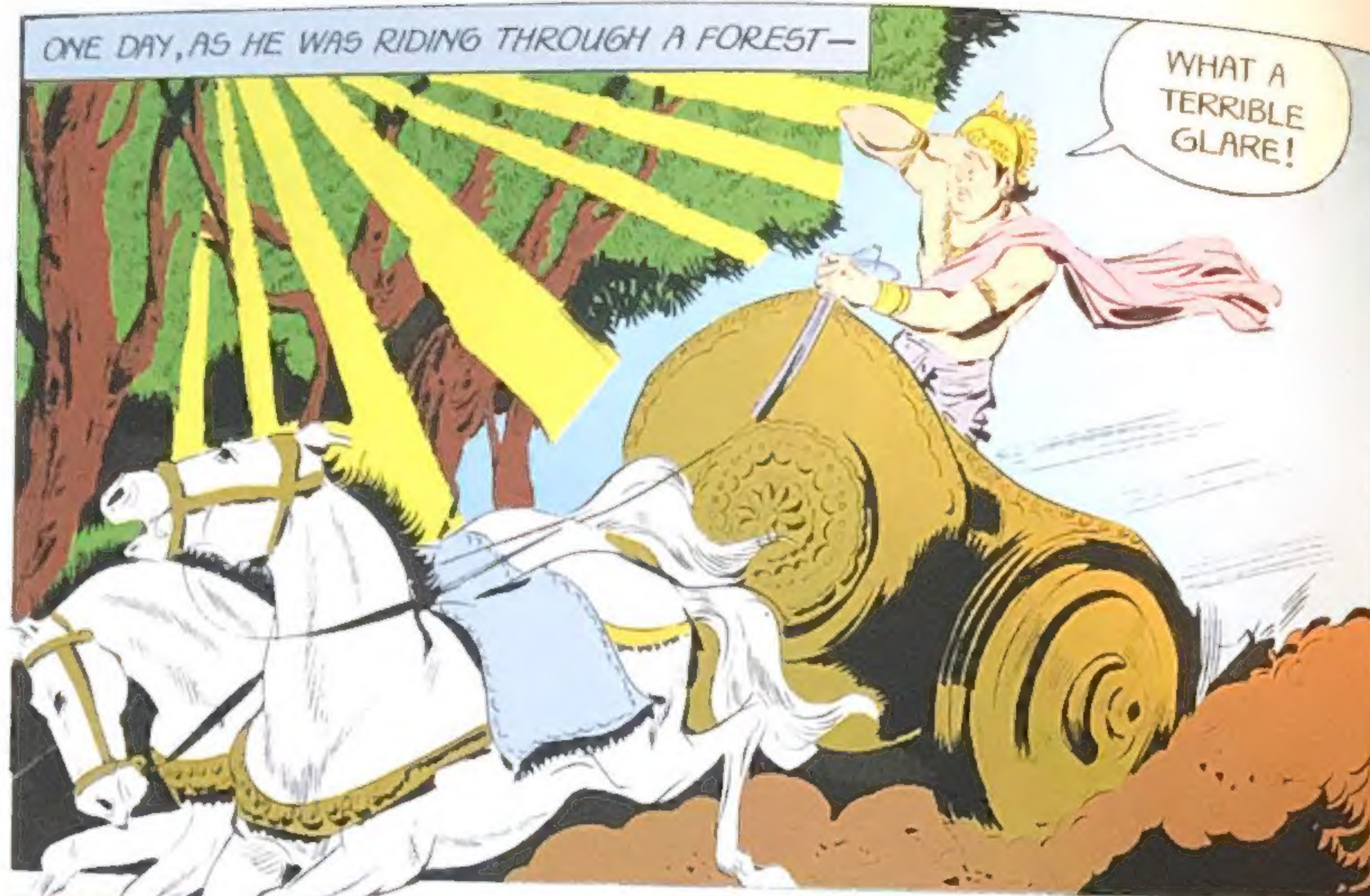
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THE SYAMANTAKA GEM



PRINCE SATRAJIT OF DWARAKA WAS A
DEVOTEE OF SURYA, THE SUN GOD.

ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RIDING THROUGH A FOREST—



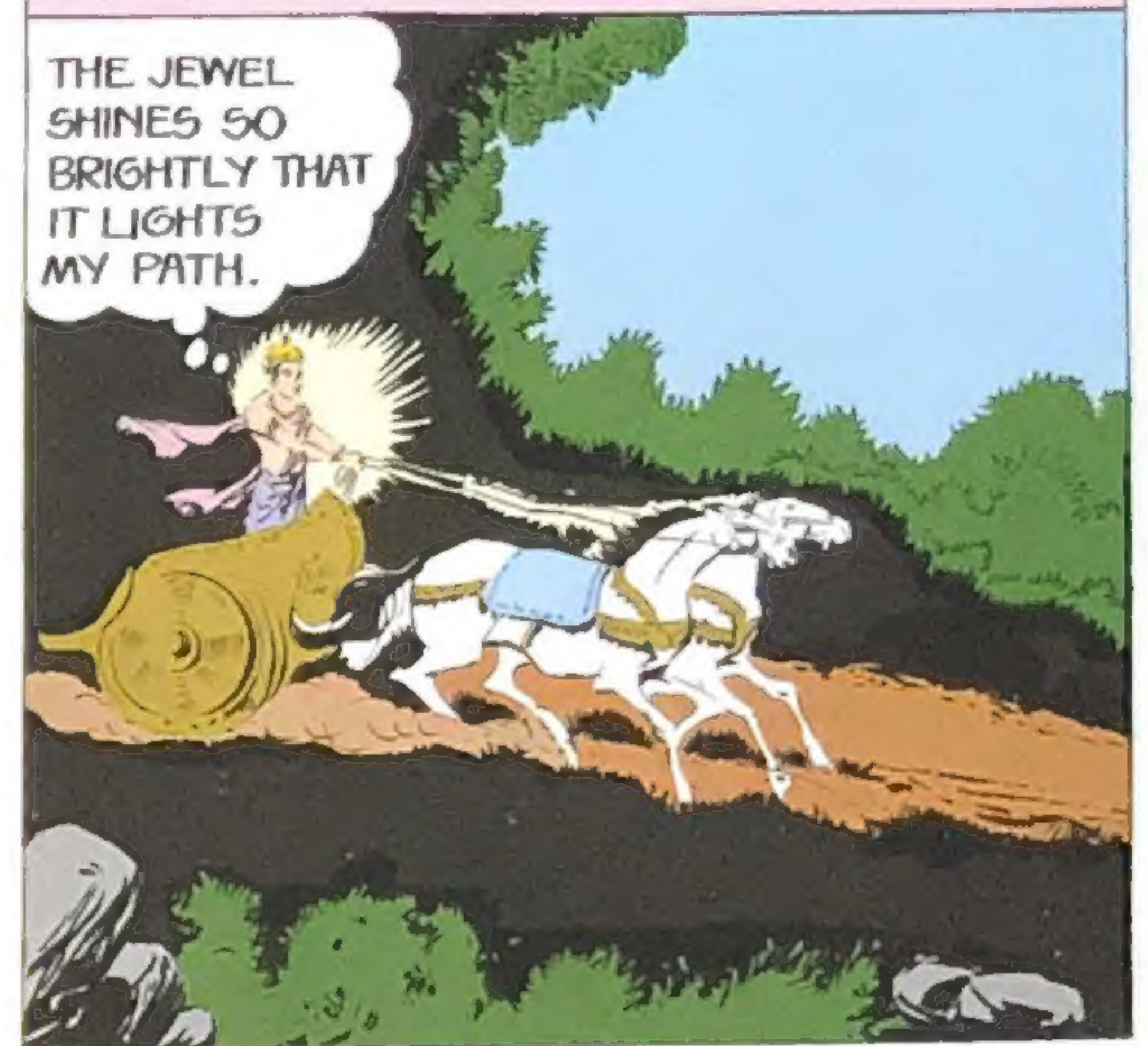
SUDDENLY THE TREES PARTED.



THE SYAMANTAKA GEM



THE SUN GOD DISAPPEARED.



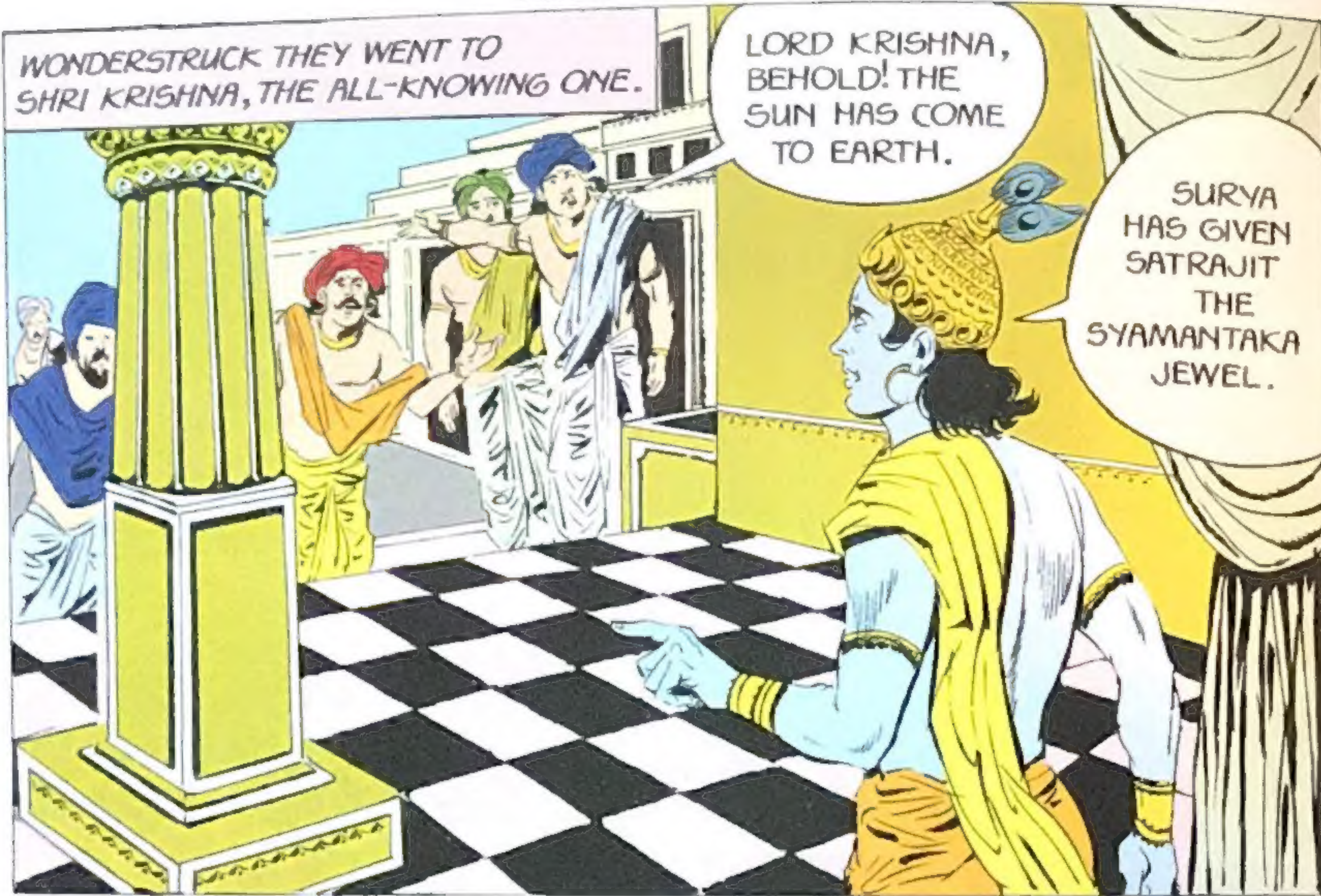
SATRAJIT RODE BACK TO DWARAKA WEARING ABOUT HIM THE RADIANCE OF THE SYAMANTAKA.



WONDERSTRUCK THEY WENT TO SHRI KRISHNA, THE ALL-KNOWING ONE.

LORD KRISHNA, BEHOLD! THE SUN HAS COME TO EARTH.

SURYA HAS GIVEN SATRAJIT THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL.



THE JEWEL HAS THE POWER TO PREVENT FAMINE AND WAR.



MEANWHILE SATRAJIT REACHED HIS PALACE.

HAIL!



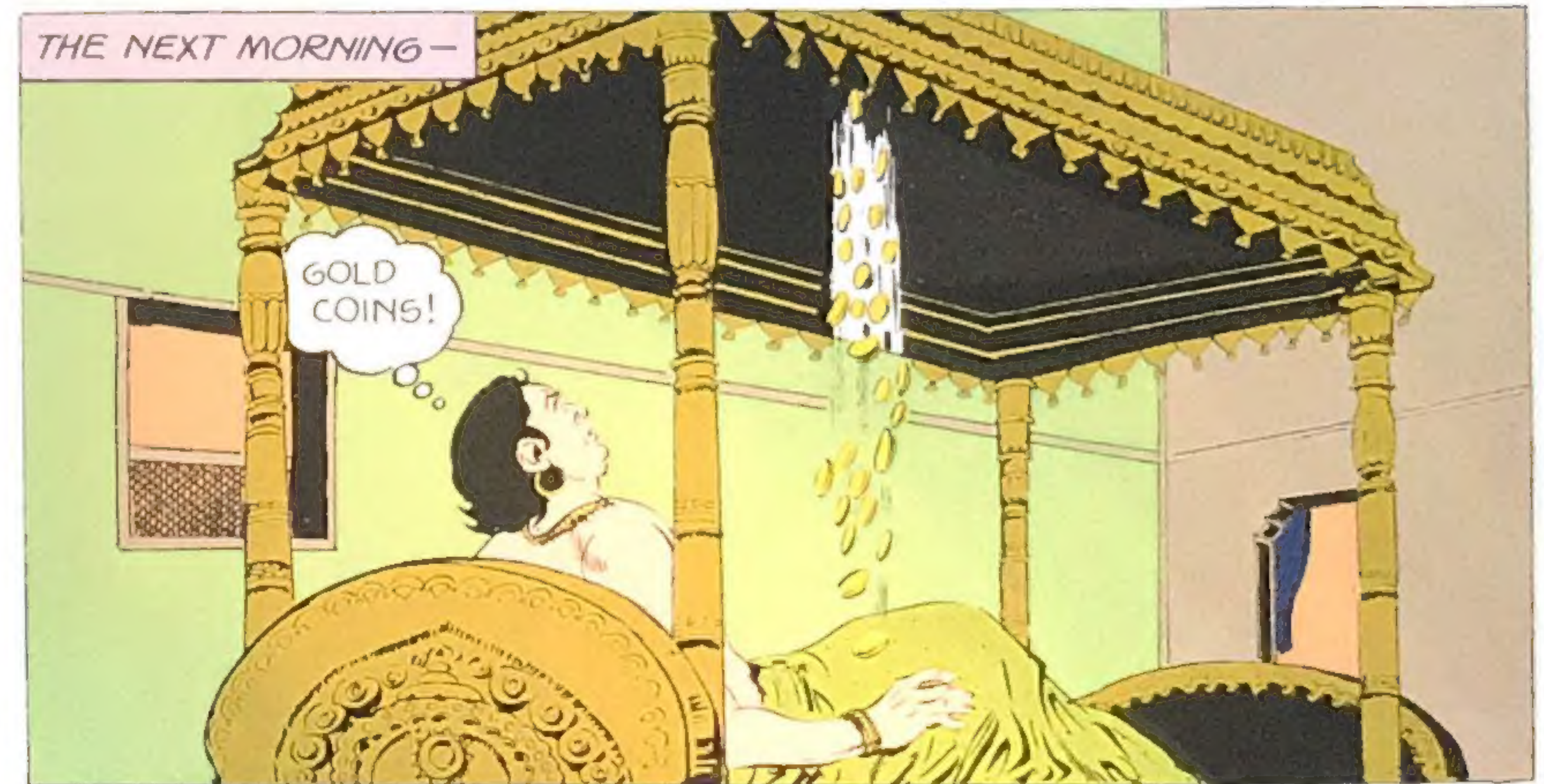
HAIL!

THAT NIGHT HE WENT TO BED, WEARING THE GEM.



THE NEXT MORNING—

GOLD COINS!

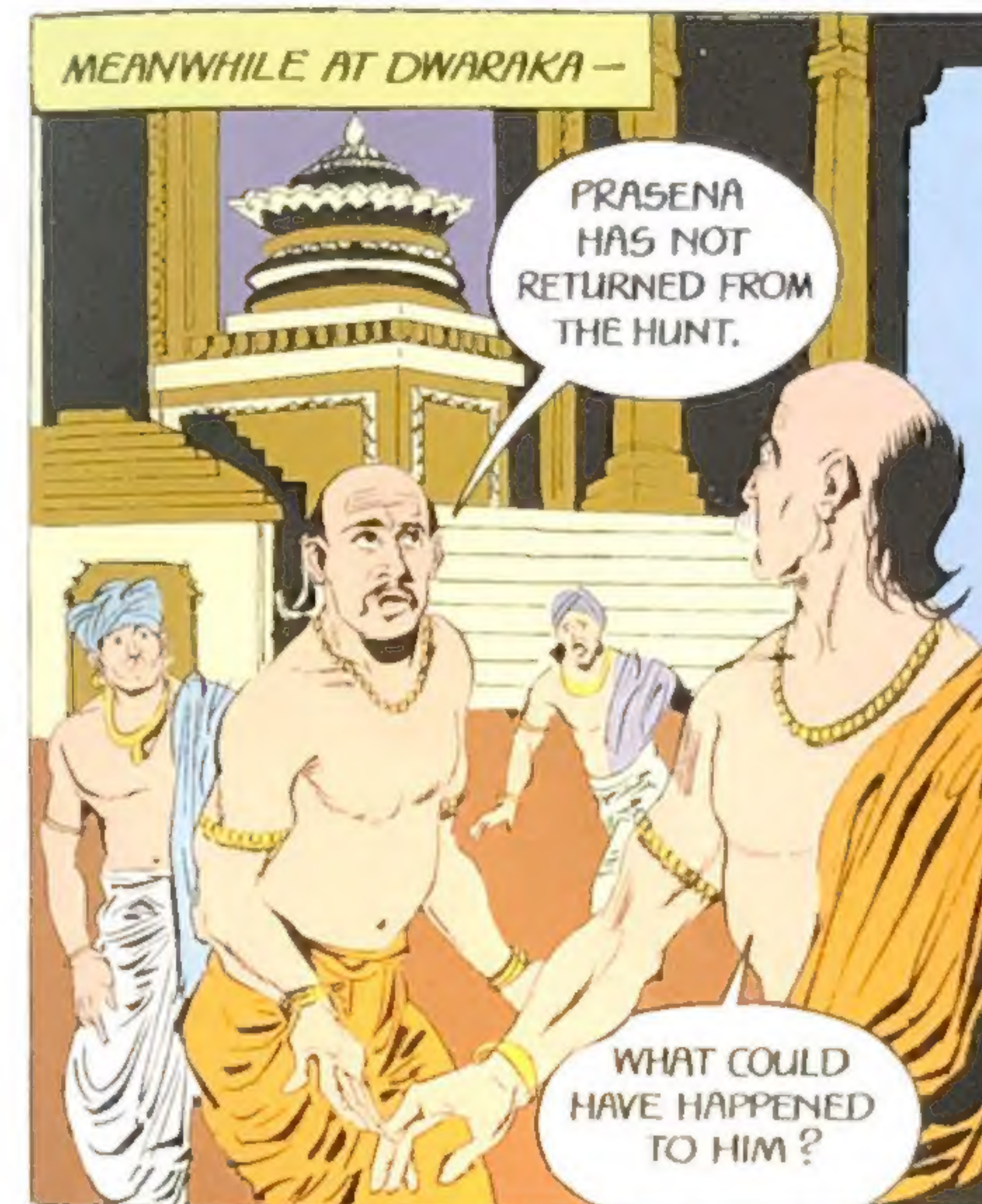


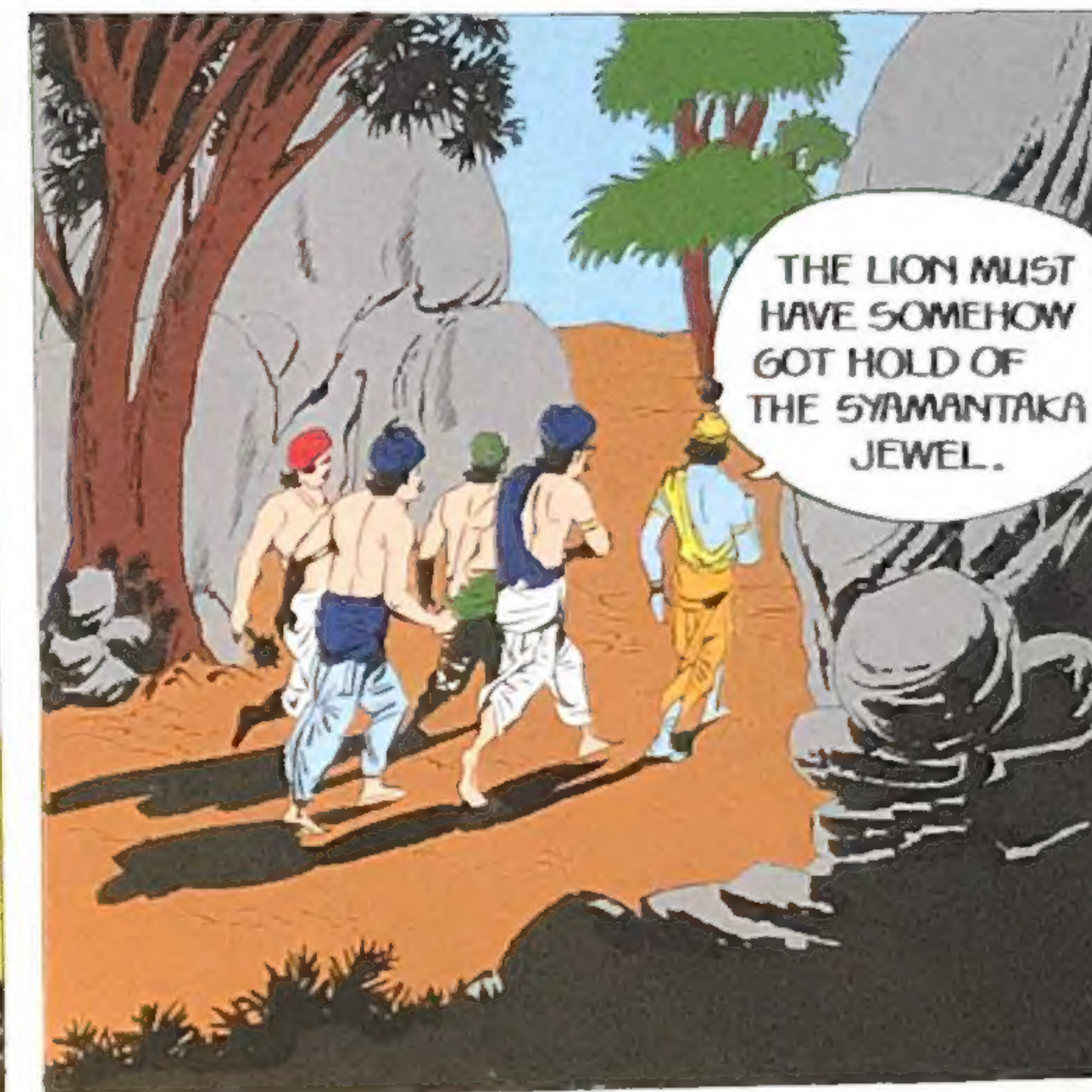
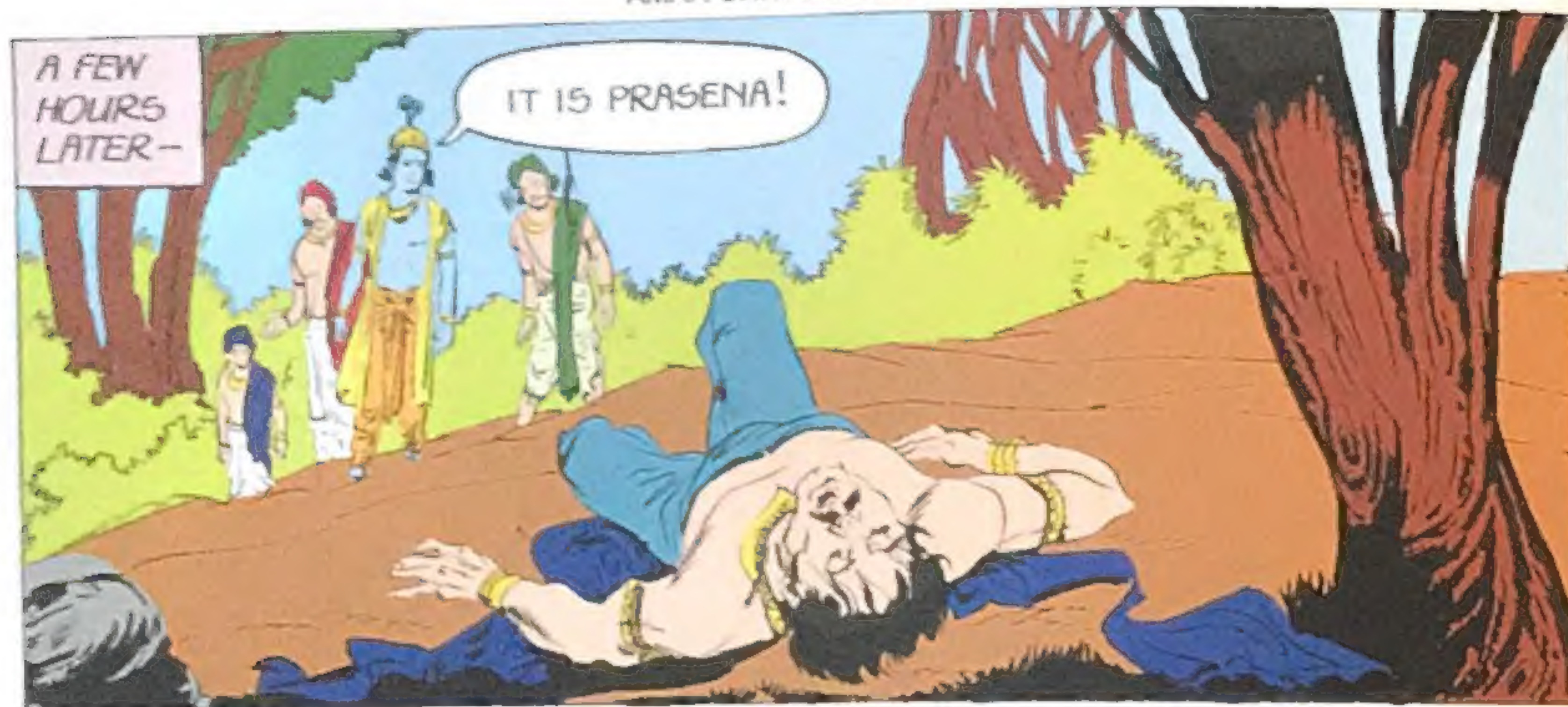
HE INSTALLED THE GEM IN A TEMPLE...



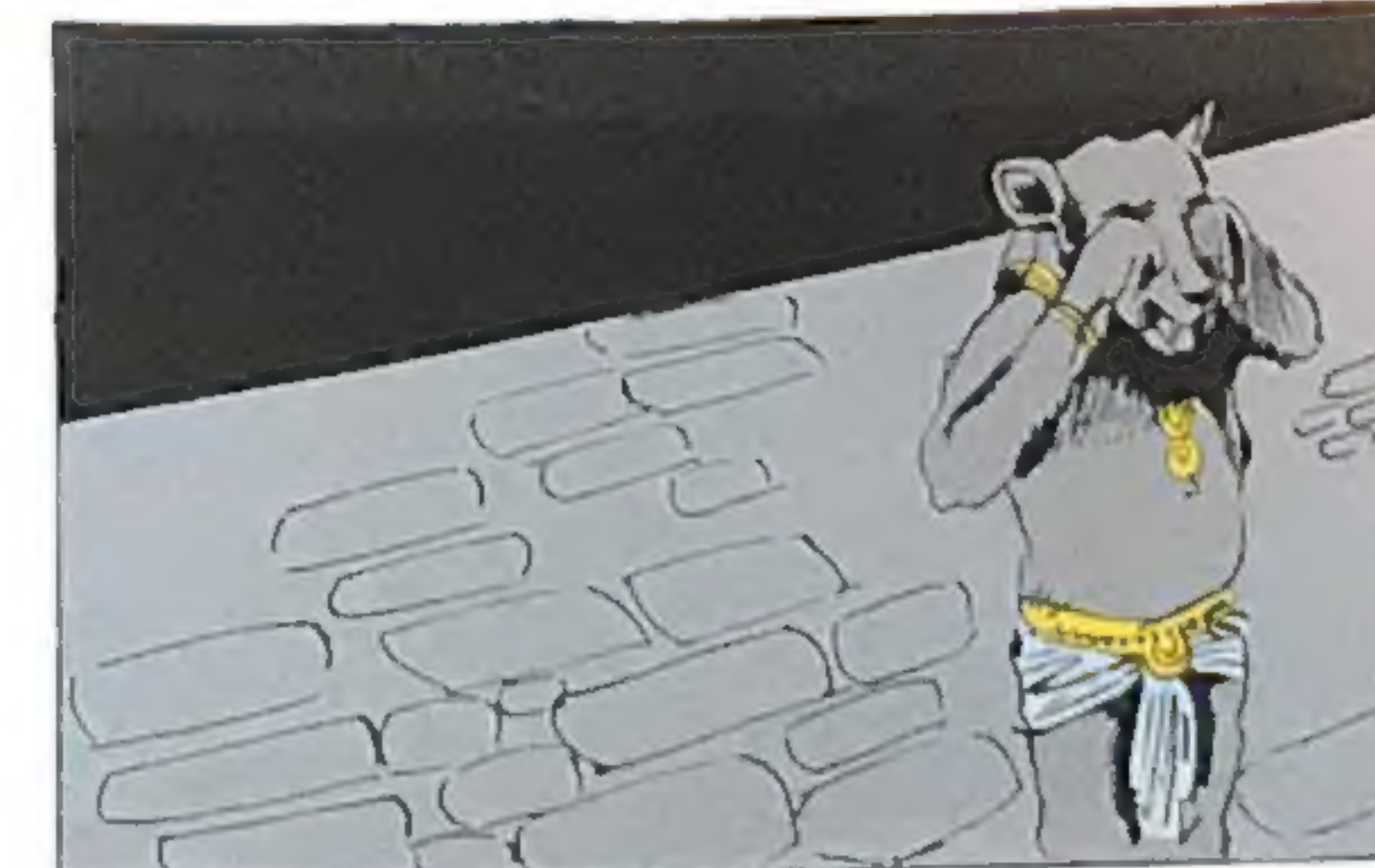
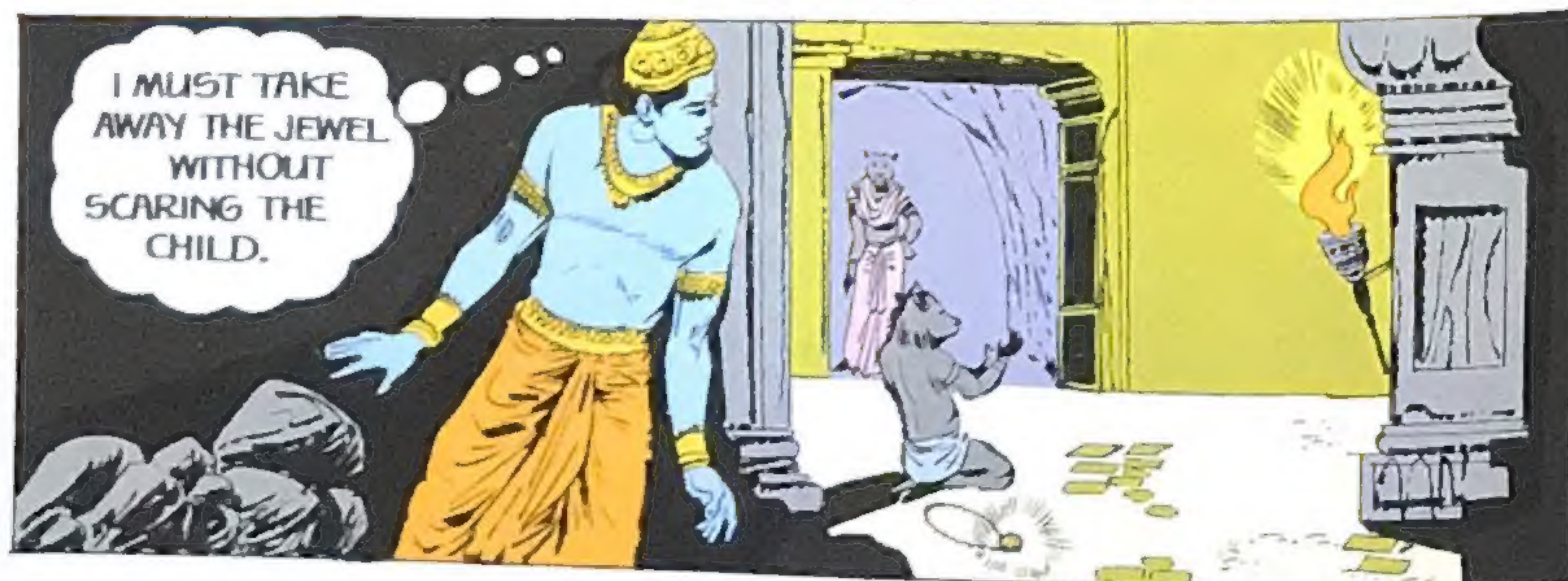
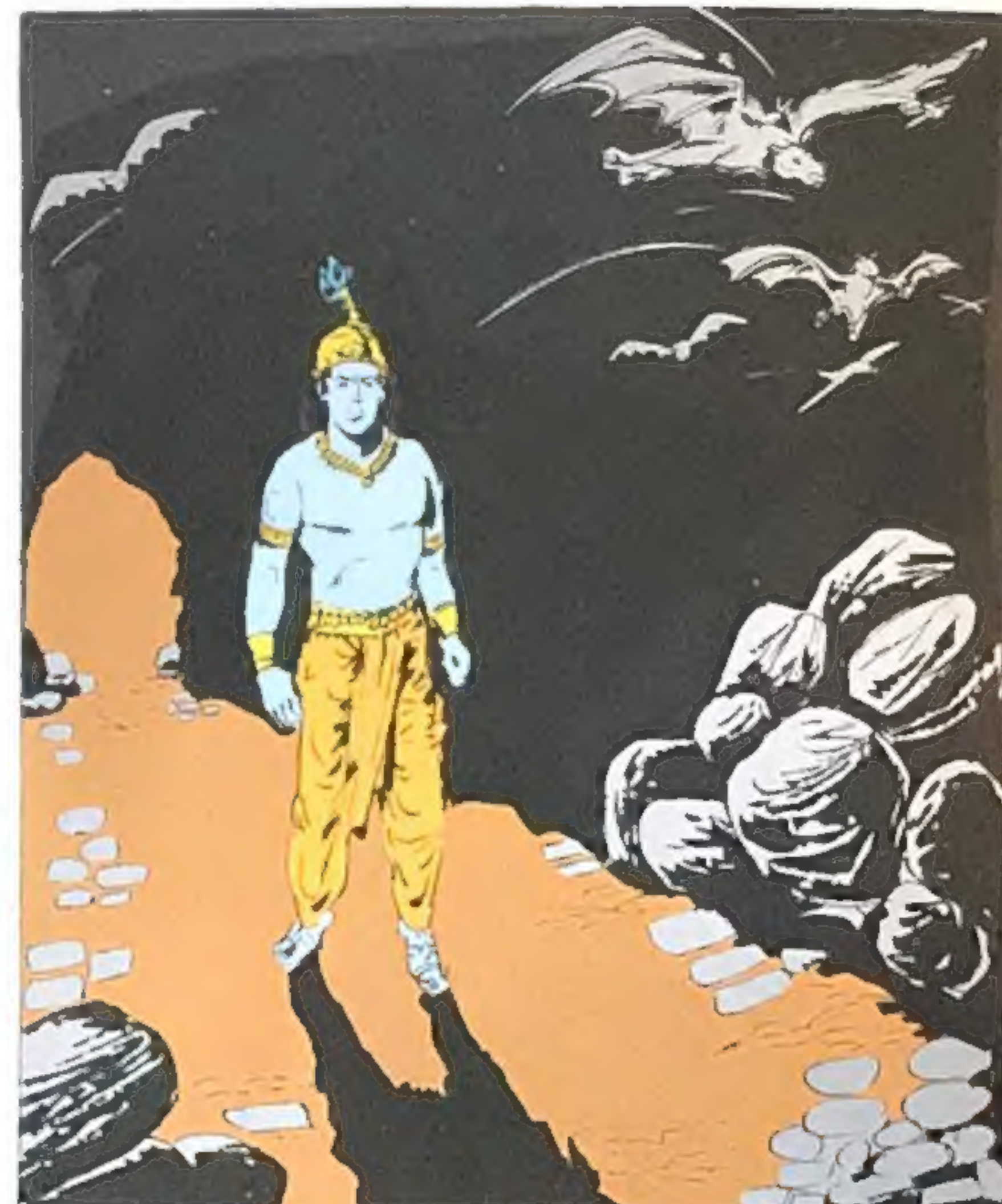








I WONDER WHO KILLED IT.







MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE CAVE



IT IS TWELVE DAYS SINCE HE WENT IN THERE.

HE MUST BE DEAD.

HE ASKED US TO WAIT HERE.



I AM HUNGRY!

I AM TIRED.

LET'S GO HOME.



AN OWL HOOTED-



WHAT WAS THAT EERIE SOUND?

ONLY AN OWL.

LET'S GO AWAY.

OVERCOME BY FEAR AND EXHAUSTION, THEY LEFT.



MEANWHILE AT DWARAKA KRISHNA'S WIFE AND PARENTS WERE ANXIOUS.



THERE IS NO NEWS OF KRISHNA.

MY LORD, RETURN TO ME, SAFE AND SOUND.



NO SOONER HAD THEY GARLANDED EACH OTHER THAN JAMBHAVATI TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

KRISHNA RETURNED WITH HIS BRIDE AND THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL TO DWARAKA.



KRISHNA HAS COME, WITH A LOVELY BRIDE.



TELL SATRAJIT TO COME TO THE COURT. I HAVE SOMETHING FOR HIM.



WHEN SATRAJIT CAME -

I HAVE FOUND THE SYAMANTAKA GEM.



AFTER KRISHNA HAD TOLD HIS STORY -

I DID YOU GRIEVOUS WRONG.

IT WAS OUT OF YOUR IGNORANCE.



SATRAJIT WANTED TO MAKE AMENDS.

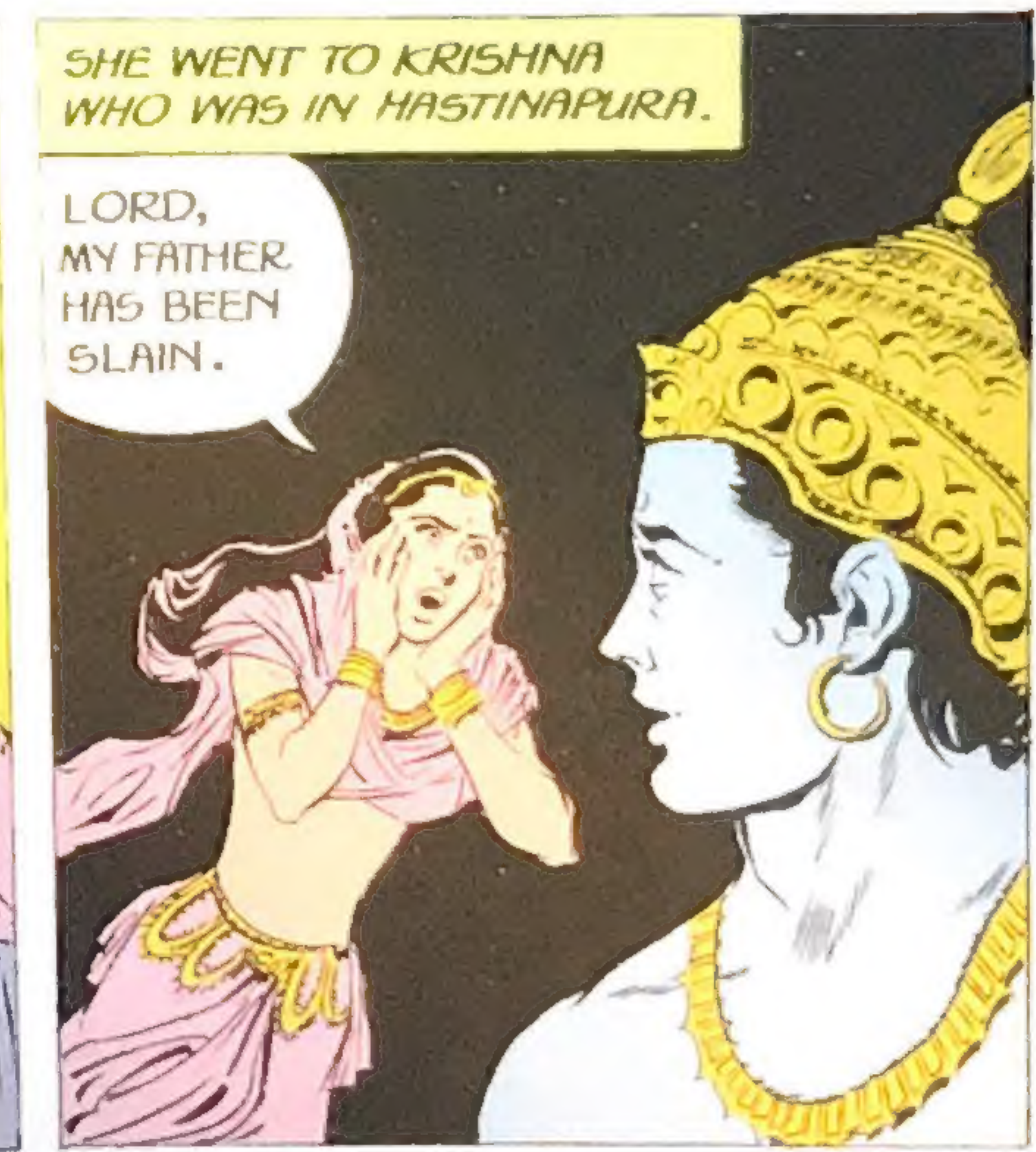
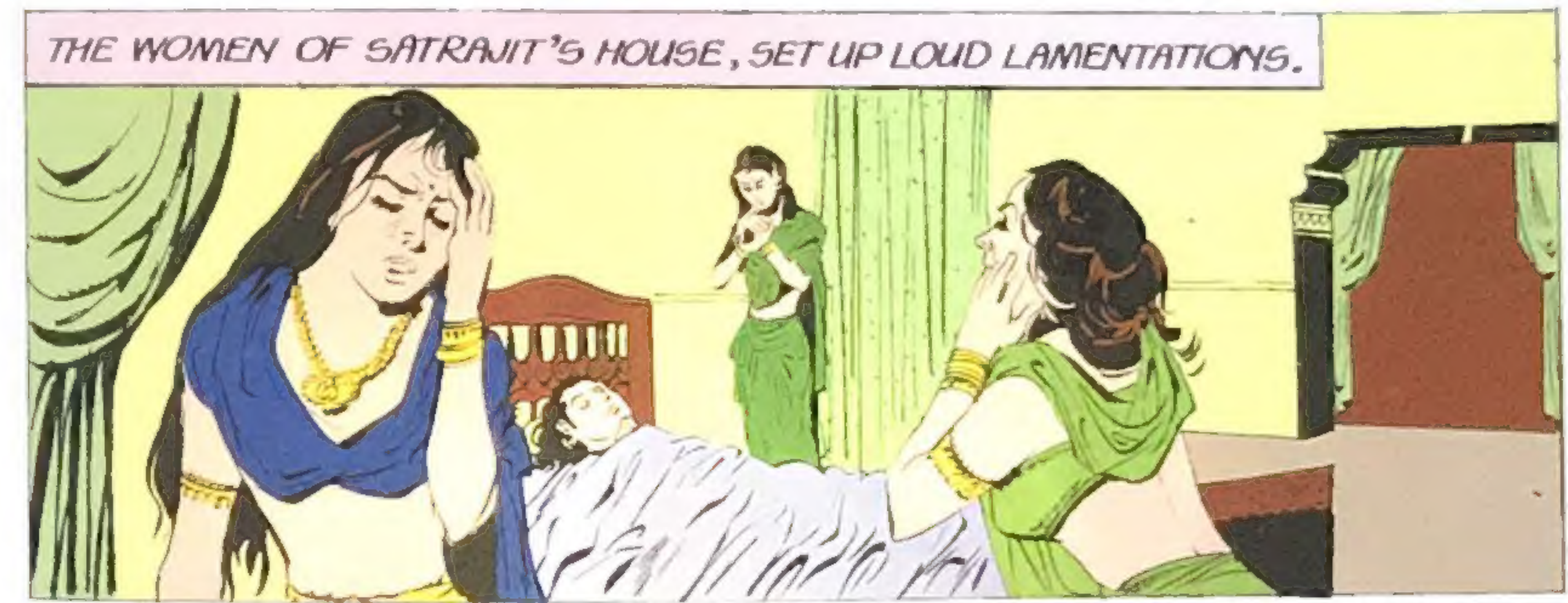
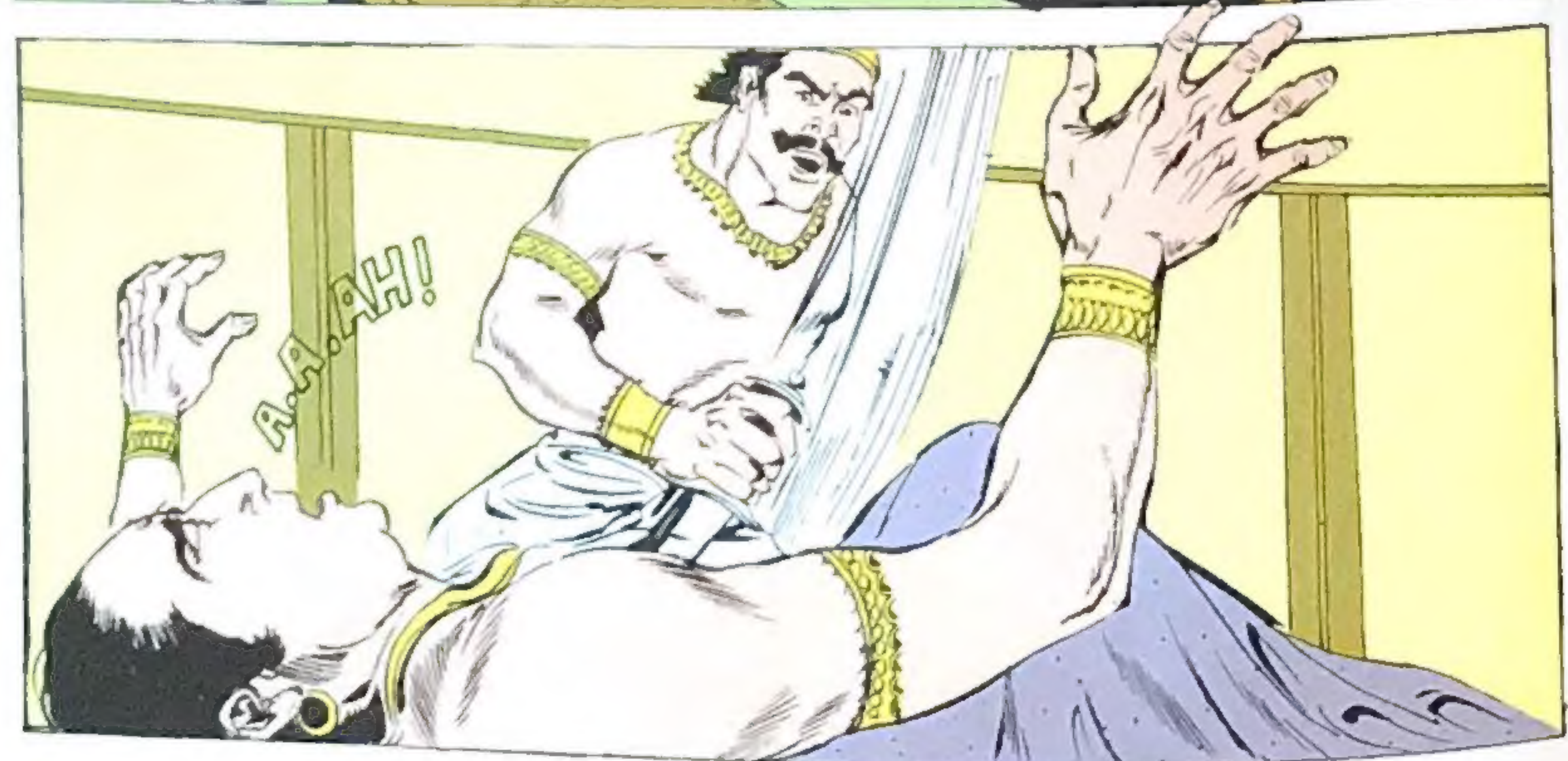
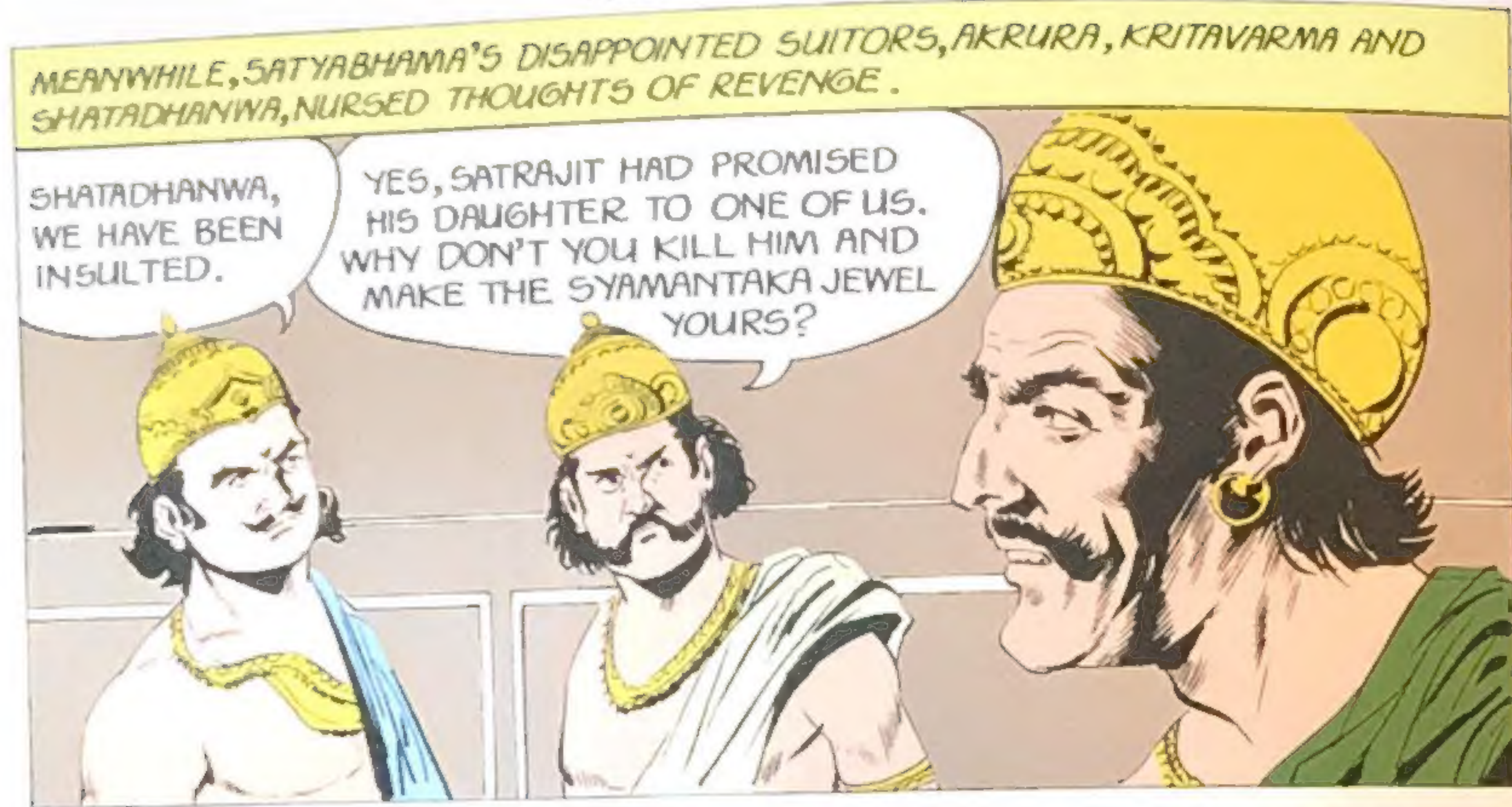
KEEP THE JEWEL, KRISHNA...



...AND ALSO ACCEPT MY DAUGHTER, SATYABHAMA IN MARRIAGE.

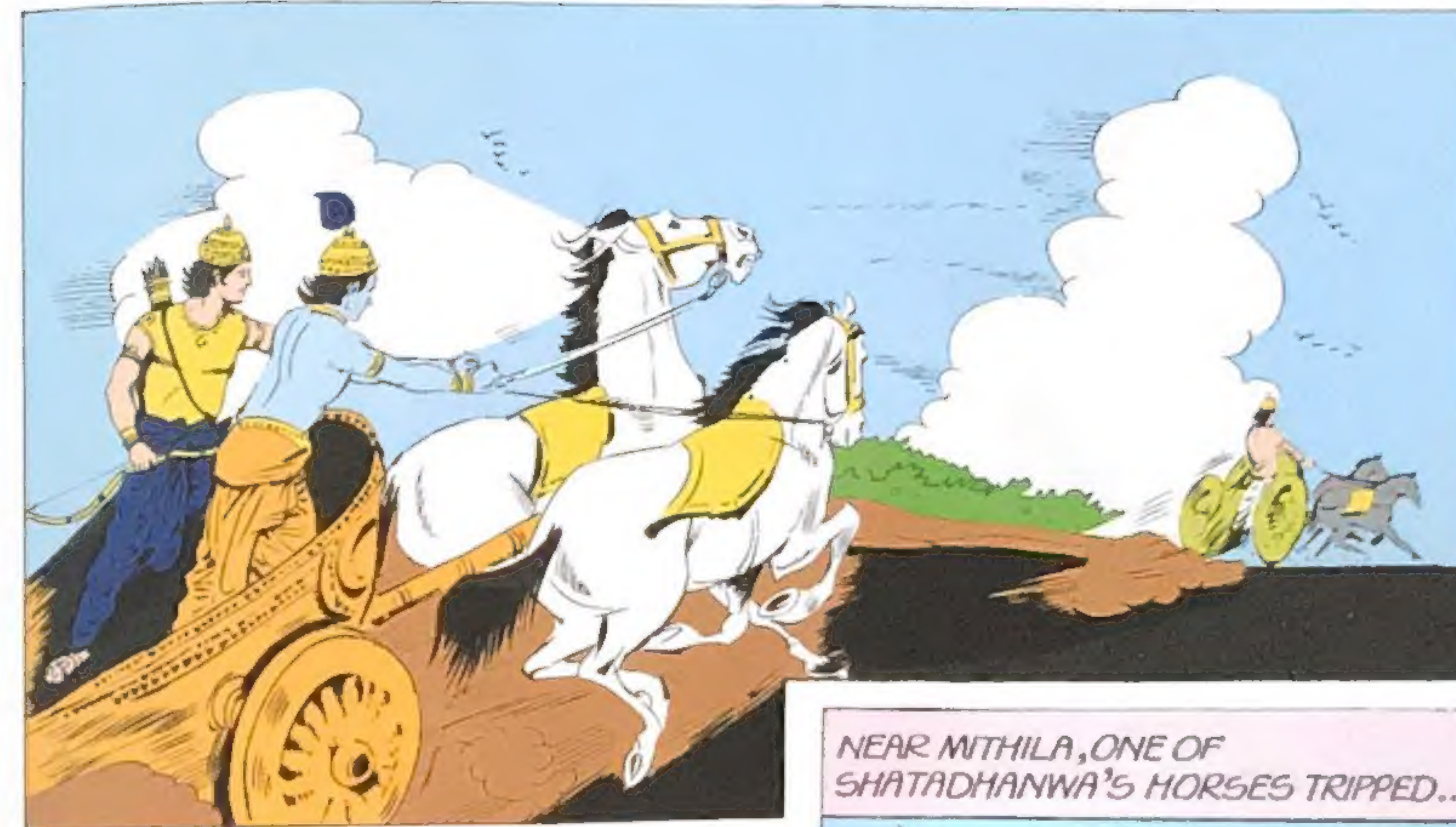
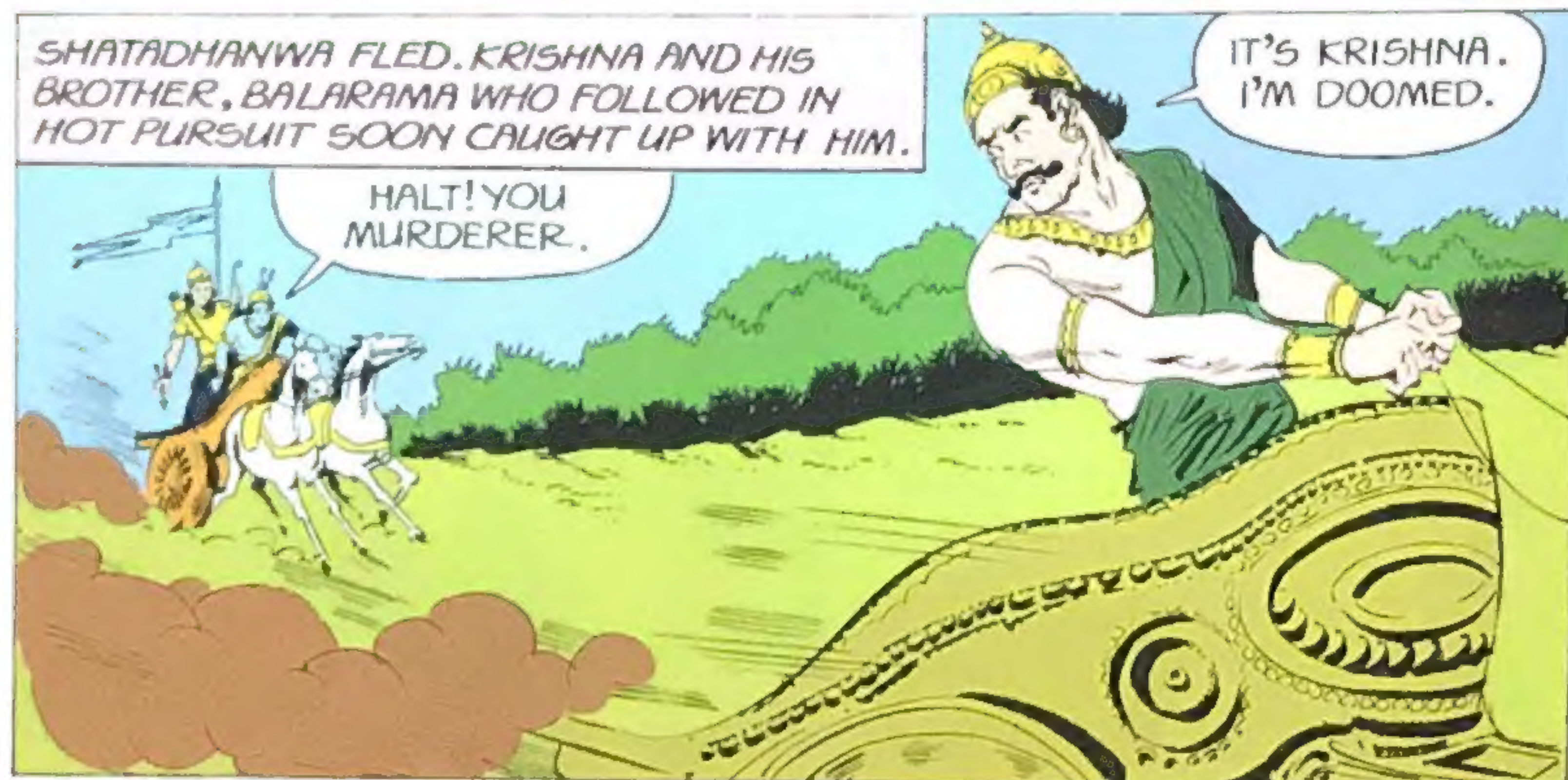
I WILL MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER WITH PLEASURE. THE GEM IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS. KEEP IT. YOU MAY HOWEVER GIVE ME THE GOLD IT YIELDS.



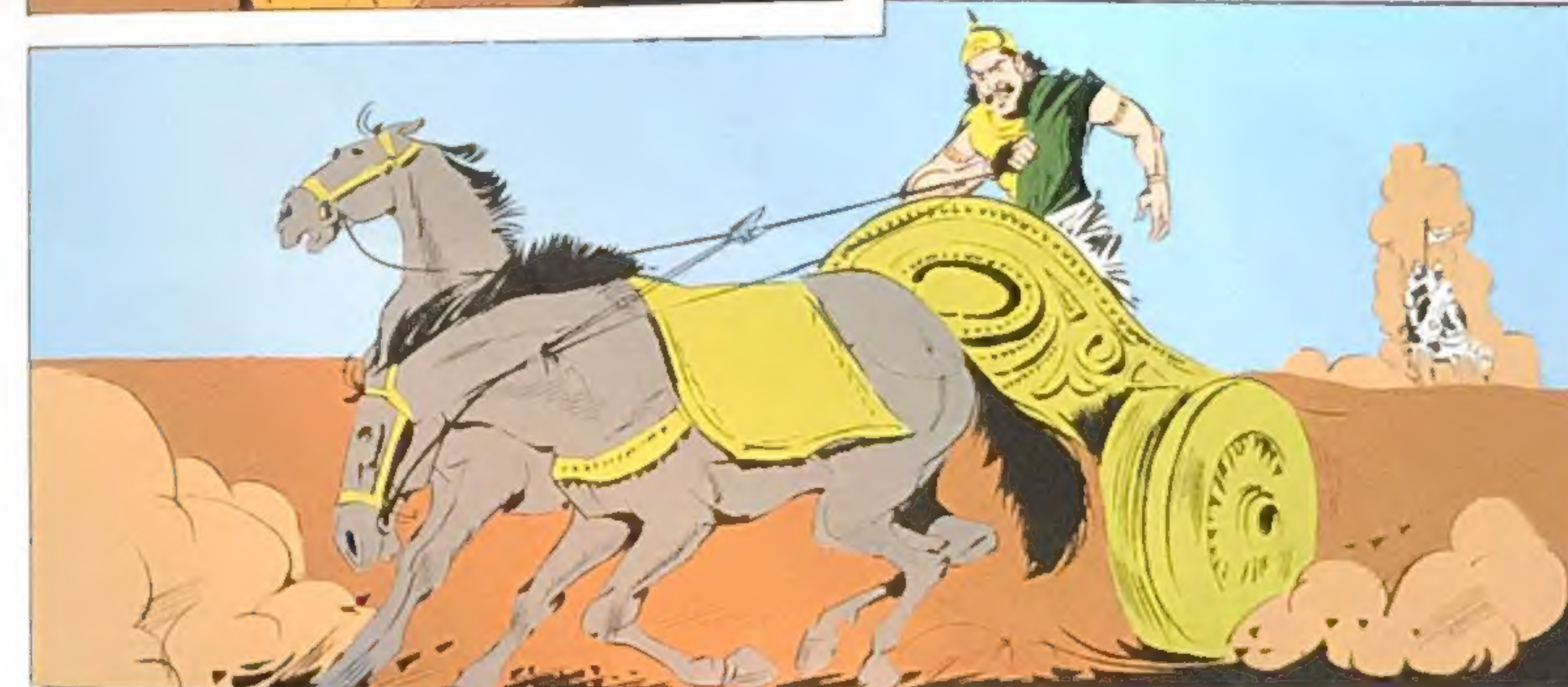




SHATADHANWA THEN WENT TO AKRURA WHO GAVE HIM THE SAME ANSWER.



NEAR NITHILA, ONE OF SHATADHANWA'S HORSES TRIPPED...





SHATADHANWA FELL DEAD.



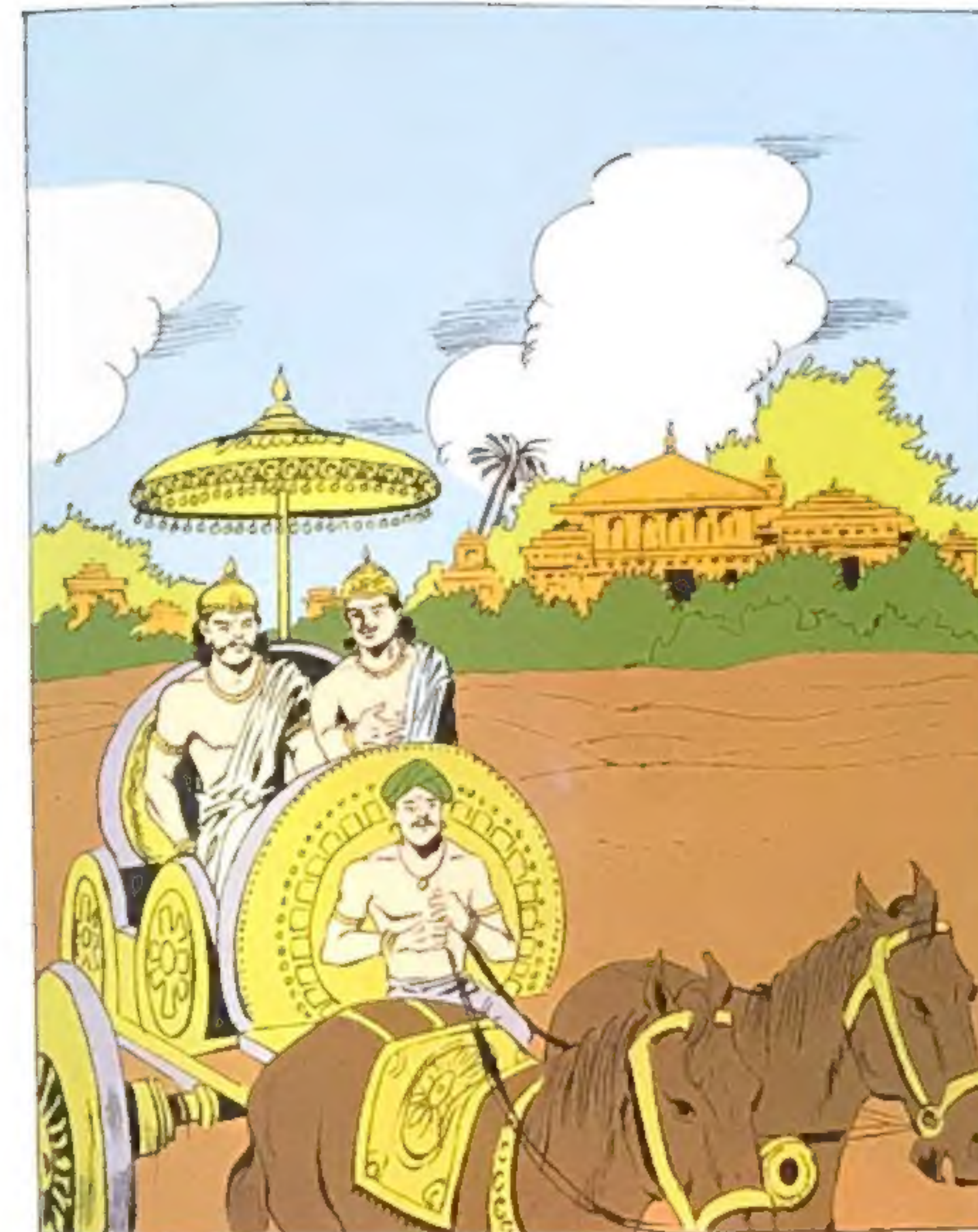
HE DOES NOT HAVE THE JEWEL. HE MUST HAVE GIVEN IT TO AKRURA.



WHEN KRITAVARMA LEARNT OF SHATADHANWA'S FATE -

KRISHNA HAS KILLED SHATADHANWA, I HEAR.

HE WILL COME HERE NEXT. LET US FLEE BEFORE HE GETS HERE.



A FEW DAYS LATER AT DWARAKA -

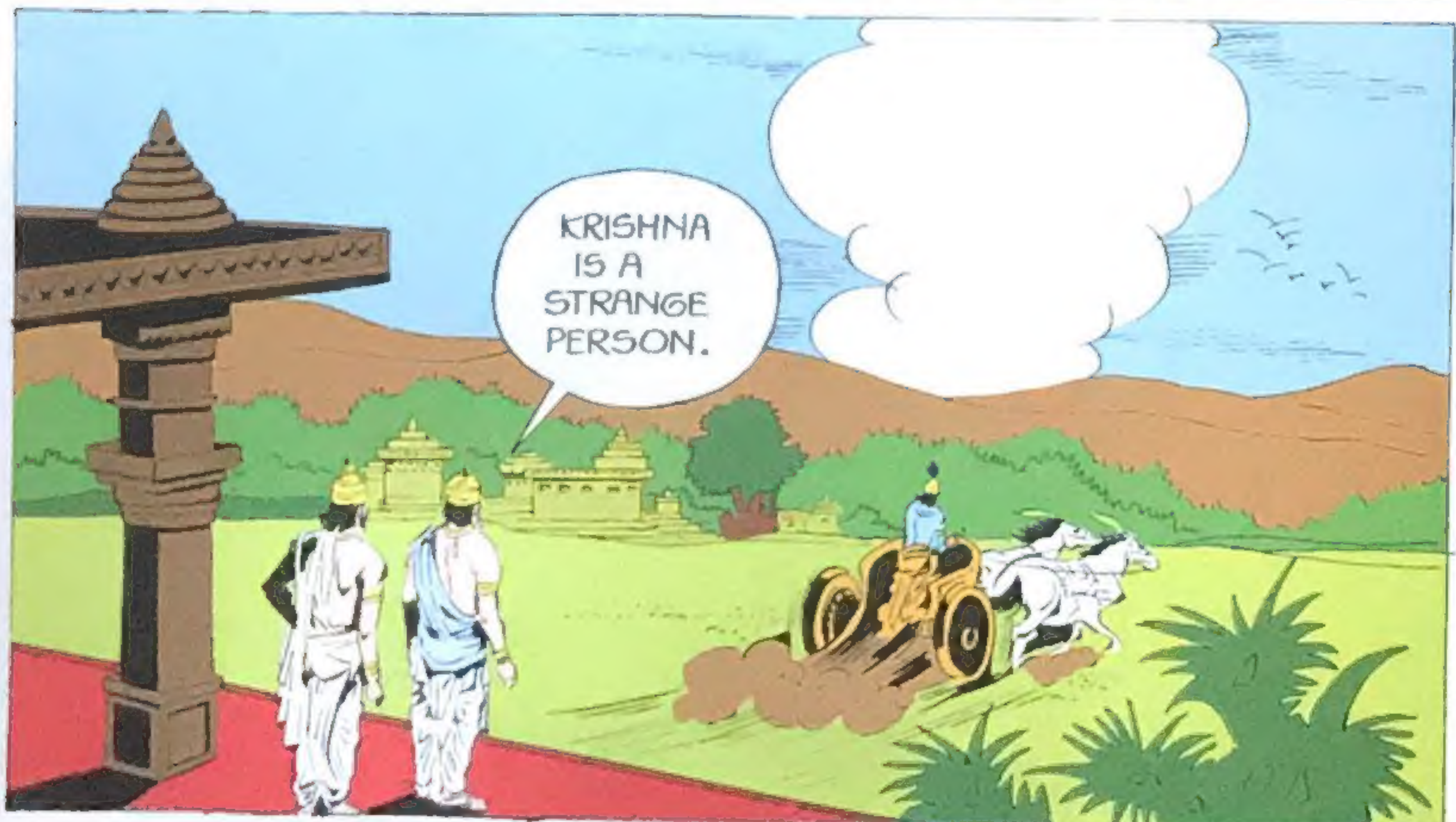
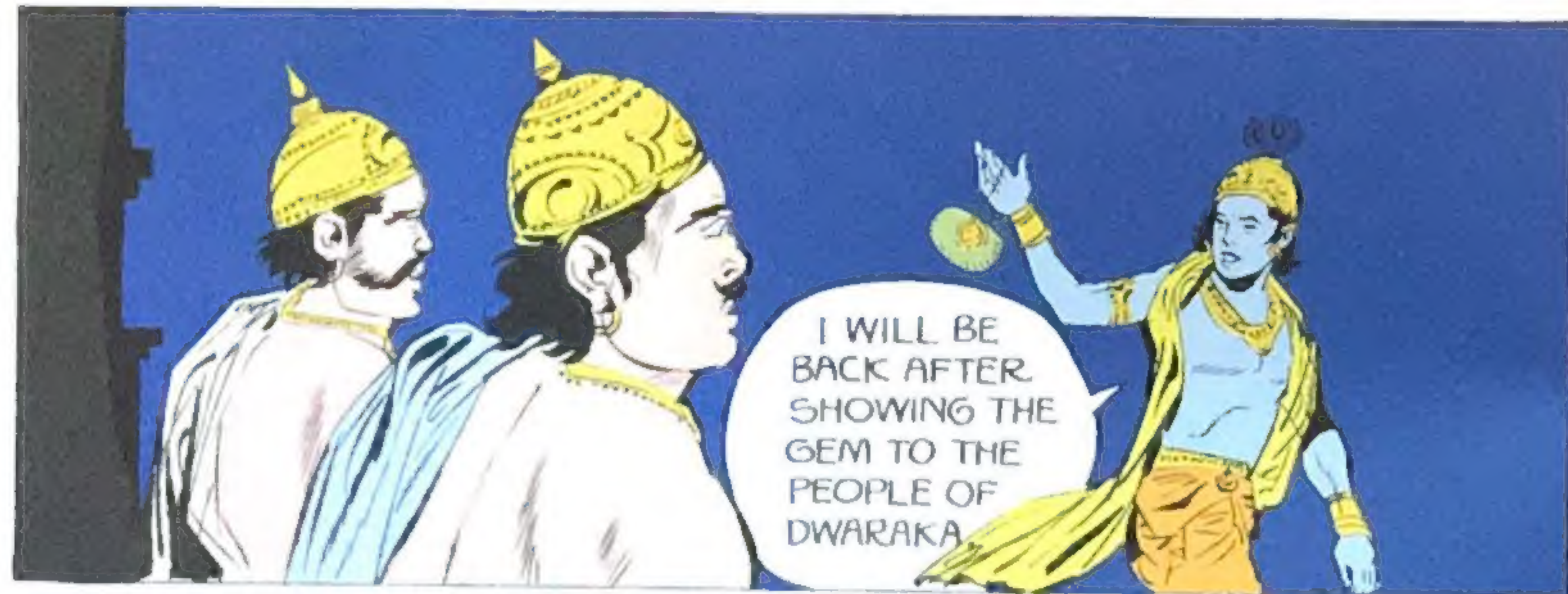
UNLESS THE GEM IS FOUND, I WILL REMAIN SUSPECT IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE. ONLY AKRURA CAN HELP ME. I WILL SEND FOR HIM.



WHEN AKRURA CAME -

I KNOW SHATADHANWA GAVE THE SYAMANTAKA GEM TO YOU FOR SAFE-KEEPING.





HAVING SET THE MINDS OF THE CITIZENS AT REST KRISHNA TOO WAS ABLE TO RELAX IN THE COMPANY OF HIS MANY WIVES.

